Please amend Claim 7 and 9 to 11, and add Claims 12 to 22, to read as follows. Note that all claims currently pending in this application, including those presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

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1.   (Original) A method for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box is connected to a cable head end via a digital cable network, comprising:

receiving a print job from an internet-based source at the cable head end, the print job being received in a printer-independent format, and including address information designating at least one home printer connected to a respective set top box;

based on the address information, accessing a user directory so as to determine information identifying type and configuration of the printer;

creating a logical software printer at the cable head end, and executing a print driver corresponding to the printer identifying information in the logical printer, so as to render the printer-independent print job into a rasterized bit map image that is specific for the ultimate destination printer; and

transferring the rasterized bit map image over the digital cable network to the set top box to which the destination printer is connected.

2.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of creating, at the set top box, another logical printer with a simplified print driver

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that accepts rasterized bit map print jobs, and of accepting the rasterized bit map print job by the logical printer for visual printout.

3.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the rasterized bit map image created at the cable head end includes all needed printer commands for the target printer.

4.   (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the rasterized bit map print data is formatted to a format needed by the target printer.

5.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step, at cable head end, of automatically detecting the identification information for the type and configuration of printer attached to the set top box, by requesting such information from the set top box, and thereafter automatically obtaining a suitable print driver.

6.   (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the print driver is obtained by downloading over the internet.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method to print an internet-based print job received by a cable head end on a printer connected to a set top box that communicates with the cable head end over a high speed data communication network, the print job being

received by the cable head end in a high level printer description language addressed to one or more such printers, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a software driver for the printer at the cable head end, the software driver being obtained based on the address and corresponding to configuration and type of the addressed printer;

creating a logical printer in the cable head end, the logical printer corresponding to the software driver;

executing the logical printer so as to rasterize the high level printer description language print job into a rasterized bit map image format; and

transmitting the rasterized bit map image format over the high speed data communication network to the set top box addressed in the print job.

8.   (Original) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps, at the set top box, of creating a logical printer corresponding to a locally connected printer, with the logical printer accepting as its input the rasterized bit map image data, and of routing the rasterized bit map image data from the set top box's logical printer to the locally connected printer.

9.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box is connected to a cable head end via a digital cable network, comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 8 and 12 to 13; and

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a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

10.   (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box is connected to a cable head end via a digital cable network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 8 and 12 to 13.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box is connected to a cable head end via a digital cable network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 8 and 12 to 13.

12.   (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the internet-based print job is a push-print print job originating from an internet-based source.

13.   (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the internet-based print job is a push-print print job originating from an internet-based source.

14.   (New) A method for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box can communicate with a broadcasting station via a broadband network, comprising:

receiving a print job from an internet-based source at the broadcasting station, the print job being received in a printer-independent format and including address information designating at least one home printer connected to a respective set top box;

based on the address information, accessing a user directory so as to determine a printer driver corresponding to the printer;

obtaining identification information of the printer connected to the set top box by communicating with the set top box;

loading the print driver specified by the accessing step or the obtaining step at the broadcasting station and executing the print driver corresponding to the printer, so as to render the printer-independent print job into a rasterized bit map image that is specific for the ultimate destination printer; and

transferring the rasterized bit map image over the broadband network to the set top box to which the destination printer is connected.

15.   (New) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising the steps of creating, at the set top box, a logical printer with a simplified print driver that accepts rasterized bit map print jobs, and of accepting the rasterized bit map print job by the logical printer for visual printout.

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16.   (New) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the rasterized bit map image created at the broadcasting station includes all needed printer commands for the target printer.

17.   (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the rasterized bit map print data is formatted to a format needed by the target printer.

18.   (New) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising the step, at the broadcasting station, of automatically updating the user directory using the identification information obtained from communication with the set top box.

19.   (New) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the print driver is obtained by downloading over the internet.

20.   (New) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the internet-based print job is a push-print print job originating from an internet-based source.

21.   (New) An apparatus for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box can communicate with a broadcasting station via a broadband network, comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 14 to 20; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

22. (New) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box can communicate with a broadcasting station via a broadband network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 14 to 20.